

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /172 W

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P R 300943Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6094

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS TSPA PFOR UN

SUBJ OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (OSLS)

APPROVES REGISTRATION CONVENTION

REF GENEVA 3298

1. OSLS APPROVED DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION, WITH SEVERAL ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS INDICATED BELOW, AT PM SITTING 28 MAY. CONVENTION NOW GOES FORWARD TO OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC), WHOSE ENDORSEMENT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT CONTENTION AT ITS JULY 1974 SESSION. OSC WILL HAVE TO MAKE DECISION TO DELETE FIFTH PREAMBULAR PARA REFERRING TO MOON TREATY (REFTEL PARA 2(A)), BUT CANADIAN REP INDICATED TO US THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT USSR TO RAISE DIFFICULTIES.

2. EXPRESSIONS OF GRATIFICATION OVER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF REG CON NEGOTIATIONS WERE WIDESPREAD (PERHAPS HEIGHTENED BY AWARENESS THIS WILL BE ONLY MAJOR OSLS ACCOMPLISHMENT AT CURRENT SESSION). CHAIRMAN
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(POLISH AMBASSADOR WYZNER) SAID POSITIVE RESULTS REFLECTED

TRADITIONAL SPIRIT OF MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION OF VIEWS IN SUBCOMMITTEE. SEVERAL DELS, INCLUDING CANADIAN, PRAISED WILLINGNESS OF ADVOCATES OF COMPULSORY MARKING PROVISION TO ACCEPT ARTICLE GIVING THEM SUBSTANTIALLY LESS; AUSTRIAN CHAIRMAN OF OSLS REGISTRATION WORKING GROUP NOTED THAT SPACE POWERS' MOVEMENT TOWARD ACCOMMODATION IN THIS CONNECTION HAD MADE EQUIVALENT CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCDSS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AFTER 24 MAY DRAFTING GROUP MEETING HAD REACHED SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT ON ALL OUTSTANDING PORTIONS OF REG CON TEXT (REFTEL), IT WAS REALIZED THAT SEVERAL FURTHER DRAFTING CHANGES WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE FINISHED TEXT COULD BE PRESENTED FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BY SUBCOMMITTEE. ACCORDINGLY, "OPEN-ENDED" AD HOC GROUP MET FOR THIS PURPOSE MAY 27 PM WITH ABOUT TEN DELEGATIONS REPRESENTED INCLUDING CANADIAN AND FRENCH CO-SPONSORS, US AND USSR. ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION OF CHANGES WAS RATHER EXTENDED, NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS EMERGED, AND ALL PARTICIPANTS REGARDED THE ADDITIONAL MINOR CHANGES AS GENUINE DRAFTING IMPROVEMENTS.

4. ALONG WITH THESE DRAFTING REFINEMENTS, CANADIAN REP WAS ABLE TO EASE THROUGH TWO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN PARAS 1 AND 2 OF ARTICLE ON INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED SYG. IN EACH CASE "CARRIED ON ITS REGISTRY" WAS SUBSTITUTED FOR "LAUNCHED INTO EARTH ORBIT OR BEYOND" IN REFERENCE TO SPACE OBJECTS ABOUT WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE PROVIDED. THESE CHANGES REMOVE AMBIGUITY AND POSSIBLE DISCREPANCIES IN OBLIGATION TO REPORT ARISING FROM FACT THAT STATE OF REGISTRY AND LAUNCHING STATE MAY NOT BE SAME. WE HAD POINTED THIS OUT TO CANADIAN REP WHO READILY AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF CHANGES; HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS TO CHOOSE BEST TACTICAL JUNCTURE TO PROPOSE THEM. IN THE EVENT, MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP PROVED SUITABLE FORUM AND NO COMMENT WAS MADE WHEN CANADIAN REP STATED RATIONALE FOR CHANGES. DURING SUBCOMMITTEE'S FINAL CONSIDERATION OF TEXT.

5. IN ADDITION, SEQUENCE OF ARTICLES CONCERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHMENT OF SYG'S CENTRAL REGISTER AND REPORTING PROVISIONS WAS MADE MORE LOGICAL WITH REGISTER ARTICLE PRECEDING RATHER THAN SEPARATING REPORTING ARTICLES. REGISTER ARTICLE NOW BECOMES NO. III, MAIN REPORTING ARTICLE NO. IV, AND MARKING REPORTING ARTICLE REMAINS NO. V.

6. FINALLY, CUTOFF DATE FOR SIGNATURE OF CONVENTION WAS

DELETED; ARTICLE VIII NOW PROVIDES SIMPLY THAT CONVENTION
WILL BE OPEN FOR SIGNATURE BY ALL STATES AT UN
HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.

7. TEXT OF DRAFT CONVENTION AS APPROVED BY SUBCOMMITTEE
BEING AIRPOUCHED MAY 31.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE LAW, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA03378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-1192
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974058/aaaaagrs.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 3298
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (OSLS) APPROVES REGISTRATION CONVENTION
TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005